All eyes on this man

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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015

High 3°C /Low -2°C Flurries

Toronto Maple Leafs' Jonathan Bernier makes a save during the dying seconds of the third period against the Ottawa Senators on Sunday in Toronto. The Sens lost 3-2 to the Leafs in a shootout, thus failing to take control of their own playoff future. Story, page 17 FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Immigration officials offer to help CFL quarterback

Redblacks player wants to become Canadian, but works part time

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa Redblacks quarterback Henry Burris is hoping to score a touchdown with Canadian immigration officials in his fight for Canadian citizenship.

Burris, 39, has lived in Canada for more than a decade, but has been unable to become a citizen because of red tape at Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) which considers his job as a CFL quarterback part-time work since he plays six months a year, according to media reports.

On Sunday, CIC acknowledged the player's immigration troubles in an email statement to Metro and offered support.

Redblacks quarterback Henry Burris cheers on Kyle Stackhouse, 5, as he kicks a field goal at the Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre on Sept. 23, 2014. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

It did not answer specific questions about his case citing privacy reasons.

"Mr. Burris has shown a great commitment to Canada over many years, and his community work through his foundation is an example for Canadian youth and all Canadians," wrote spokesman Kevin Menard.

"We will work with the Ottawa Redblacks and Mr. Burris to ensure he can remain in Canada."

Burris was born in Spiro, Okla. He reportedly receives a temporary work permit for each CFL contract he signs in order to stay in Canada with his wife, Nicole, and two Canadian-born sons, Armand and Barron.

Fans on social media were quick to criticize the immigration process, pointing out his longstanding contributions to the community as one of the reasons he should be allowed to receive Canadian citizenship.

Twitter user @MyStarCollector wrote: "@HenryBurris It is hard to believe you have any roadblocks to Canadian citizenship after all your community work. Not happy to hear this news."

Another user, @charris0n, tweeted: "Anyone in Ottawa who's seen how active @REDBLACKS QB @HenryBurris was this brutal offseason will tell you that it was a full-time job."

The former Calgary Stampeder has also been a long-standing contributor to charities in that city, including Big Brothers and Big Sister Calgary and runs the Burris Foundation, which raises money for children's charities in the Calgary area.

Burris could not be reached for comment.

He thanked his supporters in a Tweet Sunday afternoon.

"Amazing support we've received, I'd like to say thank you to our Canadian friends and family!"

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Using DNA to track unscooped dog poop. Page 10

CRIME

Police say firearm pulled in drive-thru

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A tense moment at a Tim Hortons drive-thru ended with criminal charges, after a man allegedly pointed a firearm at another driver.

Ottawa police say the incident happened at 3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon at the Tim Hortons on Merivale Road.

Investigators tracked down the suspect's vehicle and arrested the driver. When they searched the car they found a BB gun.

Police charged Jordan Collette, 23, with careless use of a firearm, pointing a firearm and possession of a dangerous weapon.

The Ottawa Police Guns and Gangs Unit is now leading the investigation and is looking to speak with any witnesses or victims.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Follow Joe Lofaro on twitter @giuseppelo

Mom protests trans bill

GENDER IDENTITY

Ottawa woman says proposed amendment hurts daughter

Nicholas Hodge
For Metro | Ottawa

Like any nine-year-old girl, Charlie Lowthian-Rickert is carefree, loves Lego and having sleepovers with her friends — but her family worries that new legislation will put her safety and happiness at risk.

Charlie is transgender, and a proposed amendment by Conservative Sen. Don Plett to Bill C-279, known as the transgender rights bill, would bar trans people like her from choosing which washroom they use in federal facilities. In protest, her mother, Anne Lowthian, swore to use public men's washrooms until the amendment is rejected.

"It is so difficult for me to walk into a bathroom I don't belong in," said Lowthian, who kicked off her protest last week with about a dozen fellow mothers of transgender children.

Lowthian believes that the fear she feels in men's washrooms is the same fear trans people would experience every time they were forced to use a bathroom where they don't feel comfortable.

While Plett supports many aspects of Bill C-279, such as violence against transgender people being considered hate crimes in the Criminal Code, he believes that it should be up to building facilitators to decide what bathroom it would be appropriate for a trans person to use. Plett has publicly expressed fears that sexual deviants such as pedophiles could abuse the bill to sneak into washrooms.

"It sends an awful message about trans people," said Amanda Ryan of the advocacy group Gender Mosaic. "There is no evidence of a transgender person attacking someone in a bathroom and it's quite the opposite. Trans people are the ones being attacked."

The movement was inspired originally by Brae Carnes, a transgender woman from Victoria who has been going into men's rooms in protest of the amendment. Lowthian, along with other mothers of trans children, felt that they could do the same on behalf of their children.

"For me to walk a few miles in the shoes of my child, that's the least I can do," said Lowthian.

She is overjoyed that most of Bill C-279 will give her daughter a brighter future should it pass, but refers to Plett's proposal as "the potty amendment."

Ottawa-area family Anne Lowthian (left), daughter Charlie Lowthian-Rickert and Chris Rickert. Lowthian is protesting a proposed amendment to the transgender rights bill by using men's public washrooms. NICHOLAS HODGE/FOR METRO

> **I would not like to be forced into a boys' washroom. People would bully me and I don't want to be bullied**
> Charlie Lowthian-Rickert, 9

Alexander Sanghwan, third from left, with his family. FACEBOOK

FLORIDA

Online campaign for Ottawa man struck by car in Miami raises $30K in a few days

The family of an Ottawa man who remains in an induced coma after being struck in a hit-and-run in Miami last weekend has already raised $30,000 online to help pay for his medical costs.

Alexander Sanghwan, 22, was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital in critical condition at around 5 a.m. on March 29 , after a BMW collided with him while he was hailing a cab outside a nightclub.

His family set up a "Pray for Alex" GoFundMe webpage on April 1 in the hopes of raising $100,000.

Supporters had donated about a third of that amount as of Sunday afternoon.

"His loved ones are with him at his bedside with a determined focus on supporting him. We are seeking financial support in order to help with medical treatment costs and the (long-term) care that he will require," read a post on the webpage.

"We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have supported and continue to support Alex through the long journey ahead."

Sanghwan's family has also created a "Stay Strong Alex" Facebook page to raise awareness about his condition and their online fundraising efforts.

Miami-Dade police said last week the driver of the BMW, Olivia Bennett, 26, turned herself into police on March 30 and was released from custody. She was charged with leaving the scene of a crash with serious bodily injury and reckless driving with serious bodily injury.

Bennett did not have a driver's licence at the time of collision, according to police.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Closeup on part of Christopher Griffin's Peregrine Falcons mural at Riverside Drive at Bronson Bridge.

ALL PHOTOS BY HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Nicole Belanger's two underpass murals, one at Riverside and one at Metcalfe, celebrate the upcoming 150th anniversary of Canada in 2017.

The mural at Metcalfe Street and Highway 417 painted by the Ottawa Urban Arts team incorporates a dinosaur with 3D glasses and the Museum of Nature.

Concrete is the best canvas for city's new mural projects

COMMUNITY

Artists have the chance to paint a part of Ottawa

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa's highway underpasses will be under the best kind of construction this summer: Expect to see scaffolding and spray paint as two new murals are put up.

The city put out a call to artists on April 3, inviting proposals for the new proposed sites. The new murals will be located on highway underpasses, one where the 417 intersects with Carling Avenue and the other on Bank Street.

"The successful mural artist will design and paint a mural which reflects the surrounding area encompassing the goal of creating dynamic gateways in our city's neighbourhoods," reads the invite.

Last year, the city funded several murals in a similar program, two at Riverside Drive under the Bronson Bridge, and two on Metcalfe Street.

Christopher Griffin, whose concrete falcon mural on Riverside celebrates local wildlife, said his participation last year was both a lot of work and an honour.

$25,000

The winners of a three-stage vetting process will each be awarded a budget of $25,000 for materials, design and installation of their murals.

"As a visual artist you want people to see and experience your work, so strictly on that basis there's just no comparison to mural work," he said.

"The other thing is that this is fairly permanent. If it becomes a landmark and people recognize it, that's humbling. That people I don't even know would see the work and take note of it."

Griffin's work includes mural panels as well as stone birds are perched on top of the bridge. The other 2014 murals are paintings by local artist Nicole Belanger and the Ottawa Urban Arts team.

The city funds murals to beautify the streets and deter graffiti. The theory is that vandals are less likely to paint over an existing piece of artwork.

For Griffin the best outcome is turning something utilitarian into an experience.

"Murals communicate. Yes, you'll get tired of a mural ... but it's still making a normal experience something a little bit better," he said.

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Duffy drama: The cast

SENATE EXPENSES

Characters set to clash as high profile scandal hits the courts

The trial of suspended senator Mike Duffy, at its most basic level, is this:

Did the former TV personality-turned-senator for Prince Edward Island, who lives in an Ottawa suburb, cheat on housing and travel expenses, fake or inflate contracts for more Senate cash and — when questions exploded into headlines, putting one of the Conservative government's biggest political fundraisers and popular caucus members under the gun — did he ensure the Prime Minister's Office paid off his contested expenses to buy his silence?

That's the nub of the 31 charges of breach of trust, fraud over and under $5,000, bribery and an offence known as "fraud on the government" laid by the RCMP against Duffy in July.

The trial is also about a once-respected journalist fighting for a chance to clear his name and pull back the curtain on what Duffy has already slammed as a "monstrous political scheme" hatched in the PMO to turn him into a scapegoat.

Duffy starts with a presumption of innocence.

The charges require the Crown to prove he intended to deceive, intended to gain personal benefit. His experienced defence lawyer, Don Bayne, will drill holes in those arguments by pointing to Senate rules as unclear and to a government desperate to avoid embarrassment — doubts that Bayne hopes will lead to an acquittal.

Judge Charles Vaillancourt will have to wade through a massive paper trail to parse arcane Senate rules, receipts and documents as he weighs Duffy's explanations that his expenses were legitimate or merely filed in error.

That's the eye-glazing stuff of any fraud trial. And this one is going to be huge: it's scheduled to run 41 days, starting Tuesday.

Yet you can expect moments of high drama.

Top Conservative Senate, PMO and party officials and former chief of staff Nigel Wright will be called to testify about the inner workings of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office and its efforts to manage a growing Senate expense scandal in the winter of 2013.

Is there is a "smoking gun?" Will Wright, or anyone else, reveal that Harper's trusted top aide was carrying out the prime minister's instructions to pay off Duffy to make a huge political problem go away, as Duffy claims?

In addition, expect daily stories on Senate entitlements, questions over primary and secondary residences and suggestions of double-dipping on expenses. These are all sure to be a backdrop for a nasty spring in Parliament. Indeed, the trial will raise questions — if not in court, then surely in the Commons — over whether Duffy is eligible for a Senate seat for Prince Edward Island and whether the prime minister willingly turned a blind eye to that question to make a star partisan appointment.

The trial is set to run until May 12, followed by two weeks in June.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mike Duffy faces 31 charges, including fraud in three categories: expense claims, awarding of contracts and a $90,172 cheque he received from Nigel Wright.

ADRIAN WYLD/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Senators

David Tkachuk, senator
A Conservative senator who was chair of the committee that oversees Senate spending. RCMP documents say he watered down a report on Duffy's living expenses at the PMO's insistence.

Marjory LeBreton, senator
As government leader in the Senate, she managed the government's response to the Duffy controversy in the upper chamber.

Daniel Lang, senator
A Conservative senator who is reportedly slated to testify, though he has thus far not been considered a key player in the Duffy saga.

Carolyn Stewart Olsen, senator
A Conservative senator who served as a member of the subcommittee that examined Duffy's expenses. RCMP documents say she watered down a report on his living expenses at the PMO's insistence.

George Furey, senator
A Liberal senator who served as a member of the subcommittee that examined Duffy's expenses. He opposed a decision to remove criticisms of Duffy from a report, RCMP documents say.

Irving Gerstein, senator
A Conservative senator who headed the party's fundraising arm. RCMP documents say he agreed to have the Conservative Fund cover Duffy's expenses when they were estimated to be $32,000 but balked when he learned the cost was higher. However, he agreed to have the fund cover Duffy's legal fees.

The other players

Gary O'Brien, Senate clerk
O'Brien told senators about a "pattern that raises concerns" in Duffy's expense filings.

Arthur Hamilton, lawyer
Conservative party lawyer who facilitated the $13,560 payment to cover Duffy's legal fees in the negotiations with Wright over the $90,172 cheque.

Christopher Montgomery, director of parliamentary affairs
Served under LeBreton. He balked at pressure from Wright and others to soften a report on Duffy's expenses.

Barry Devolin, MP
A Conservative MP who has reportedly been asked to testify about Duffy's fundraising activities on behalf of the party.

Dean Del Mastro, former MP
Del Mastro has reportedly been asked to testify about Duffy's fundraising activities on behalf of the party.

Gerald Donohue, friend of Duffy
Donohue allegedly received payments totalling nearly $65,000 for consulting services but did "little or no apparent work," according to the RCMP.

Ezra Levant, speech writer. Provocative political commentator wrote speeches for Duffy several years ago. He has been subpoenaed as a Crown witness.

FRANCIS VACHON/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Prime Minister's Office

Stephen Harper, prime minister
Harper may not be called to testify but is a central figure nonetheless. Harper insists he knew nothing about Wright's decision to cover Duffy, who was one of his marquee Senate appointees.

Ray Novak, aide/chief of staff
Harper's longest-serving aide and Wright's replacement. He demanded Duffy resign from the Tory caucus over the repayment scheme, according to Duffy.

David van Hemmen, former executive assistant to Nigel Wright
Served under Wright. He was aware of Wright's decision to pay Duffy's bill.

Patrick Rogers, manager of parliamentary affairs
Served under Wright and was one of the few people who knew of Wright's decision to cover Duffy's expenses.

Chris Woodcock, Director of issues management
Served under Wright. He stick-handled communications around the Duffy scandal and worked to influence how the government's leaders in the Senate would manage the affair.

Andrew MacDougall, former director of communications
MacDougall was involved in damage control after the Duffy-Wright repayment scheme was revealed.

Benjamin Perrin, adviser/lawyer
Served as special adviser and legal counsel to the prime minister. According to RCMP documents, he negotiated the details of the repayment deal with Duffy's lawyer. Perrin has denied that he was involved in Wright's decision to write a personal cheque for Duffy's expenses.

Nigel Wright, a critical figure to the case. He served as chief of staff to Harper until he was forced out over the $90K cheque he wrote to reimburse taxpayers for Duffy's expenses.
ADRIAN WYLD/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charles Vaillancourt, judge.
The Ontario Court judge has presided over a number of high-profile trials, including a 1999 case that dealt with the complex issue of how to define the Métis and their constitutional rights.
ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX TAVSHUNSKY

The courts

Donald Bayne, defence lawyer
Bayne has maintained Duffy's innocence and said the repayment scenario was concocted by the PMO "for purely political purposes."

Jason Neubauer and Mark Holmes, prosecutors
Crown prosecutors have so far refused to comment on the particulars of the case.

A sign for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service building in Ottawa.
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CSIS

Intel forum set up for 'partners'

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has set up a "multilateral forum of trusted partners" to share information on suspected extremists travelling abroad — a group that extends beyond its customary Five Eyes spy network, a newly released memo says.

In the memo, "CSIS Response: Addressing the Terrorist Travel Threat," Canada's spy agency also flags a concern about the challenges it faces in going further to build relationships with "non-traditional partners."

The September CSIS memo evokes the kind of information-sharing that led to the overseas torture of four Arab-Canadians following the 9/11 attacks, said Alex Neve, secretary general of Amnesty International Canada.

"The very term 'terrorist travel' is uncertain and loaded," Neve said. "Who, exactly, would be covered?"

The memo was drafted just weeks before a jihadi-inspired gunman fatally shot a soldier at the National War Memorial and stormed Parliament Hill last October.

CSIS fears extremists who head to Syria or Iraq may return to Canada to wage attacks.

The traveller phenomenon is a "priority collection" requirement for the spy service, the memo says.

"Obtaining the required intelligence on this threat to advise the government requires extensive and resource-intensive investigations at home and abroad given the issue has both international and domestic components."

A heavily censored copy of the five-page, top-secret memo was obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

CSIS had no immediate answers to questions about the forum. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EASTER WHERE DO CHOCOLATE BUNNIES COME FROM? Colin, 3, pets an Easter bunny Sunday at the Agriculture and Food Museum. The museum's annual "Easter at the Farm" offers city tots a chance to see where eggs come from and meet the inspiration behind chocolate Easter bunnies. HALEY RITCHIE/FOR METRO

Revamp of hospital parking fees coming: Health Minister

HEALTH

Liberals have consulted with stakeholders to 'get this right'

When it comes to painful hospital parking fees in Ontario, the doctor is on the case.

Health Minister Eric Hoskins says he will "very soon" have a remedy for the exorbitant charges that ail patients and their visitors alike.

"We're working with the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA). We've been consulting with the patient advocates and other stakeholders to make sure we get this right," said Hoskins, an MD and PhD.

"I expect in a very short while we should bring together a policy that will … effectively address the concerns of Ontarians that rightly should be concerned," he said at Queen's Park.

In last June's provincial election, a key pledge from Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals was to act on an issue that affects people in every corner of the province.

"We've been asked to either look at a cap or look at a reduction for those frequent visitors so we've been working to define what a frequent visitor is," said Hoskins.

> **"It's a barrier to access for a lot of people.**
> Interim PC Leader Jim Wilson

"A big part of the process was to find out what's going on out there. So we had to reach out to virtually every hospital and find out what they charge and if they do provide exemptions."

Interim Progressive Conservative Leader Jim Wilson said most MPPs have been getting an earful about hospital parking.

"We get a lot of complaints particularly from my riding that have to come to Toronto hospitals. They're shocked at the cost of hospital parking," said the Simcoe-Grey MPP.

"The government is going to have to act," said Wilson. "It's a barrier to access for a lot of people."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said the high price of hospital parking "is one of those things that really get under people's skin."

"It really irritates them, especially when people have loved ones that have serious health problems and are in hospital for a period of time. The loved ones are going there every single day to see their family members and they really have very few choices," said Horwath.

"We hear it all the time from families. It's adding insult to injury when families are already feeling vulnerable. They're trying to scramble to support loved ones."

Hospitals have long argued that they have no choice but to charge hefty parking levies of $25 a day or more because government funding covers only about three-quarters of their costs.

They point out that services like parking and hospital shops and cafes effectively subsidize health care. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BUSINESS

Shoppers surprised by Easter closure

Whole Food shoppers planning to buy groceries at the chain's Lansdowne location on Sunday found it closed, unlike on Good Friday when the store defied a provincial law and opened its doors.

Ottawa police showed up at the packed grocery store on Friday after receiving a complaint. The Ontario Retail Business Holiday Act calls for stores to be closed on nine major holidays, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Whole Foods tweeted it believed it was in a designated tourist area, and therefore exempt from the law. Penalties range from a $500 fine for a first-time offender to $50,000 or the entire amount sold that day, whichever is greater. Shoppers stuck for groceries on Sunday had the option of heading across the Quebec border to Gatineau, where the law doesn't apply. METRO

Shoppers stream in and out of Whole Foods Market at Lansdowne on Good Friday.
MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

Canadian's arrest, torture topic of CIA debate: Ex-spy

Whistleblower says colleagues were sure Maher Arar was innocent

A former spy has described the debate within the CIA over the arrest, rendition and torture of Canadian Maher Arar, saying multiple colleagues warned against it because they were convinced they were punishing an innocent man.

The account from former CIA officer John Kiriakou sheds new light on decade-old events that caused a public inquiry in Canada, a $10-million payout from the federal government, and unsuccessful lawsuits in the U.S.

It's a rare peek into discussions within the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency — whose role in the 2002-03 events has never been publicly examined, having remained off-limits in Canada's inquiry.

It came during an interview at the former spy's Virginia home, where he described how he went from being the head of counter-terrorism operations in Pakistan after 9/11, to becoming the first CIA employee to publicly question the use of torture, to eventually spending two years in jail for leaking agency secrets.

During that interview, Kiriakou declined to discuss whether he had interacted with Canada's spy services — because, he said, revealing details about a foreign partner remains a cardinal sin in the world of espionage.

But he added: "We can talk about Maher Arar."

Kiriakou expressed disgust with his country's role in sending the engineer to be tortured in his native Syria, and with its continuing failure to issue an apology like Canada has.

He described a dynamic within the agency in which one mid-to-high-level officer ignored repeated objections from her subordinates, and insisted on pushing ahead.

"I can tell you that a lot of people inside the CIA objected to this," Kiriakou said.

"(They said), 'This is the wrong guy. He hasn't done anything.'"

Arar was grabbed during a New York airport layover and flown to a notorious Syrian prison. He has described a year-long ordeal that included being beaten and stuffed into a body-sized slot in a windowless dungeon. Arar likened it to being buried alive.

At the time, Kiriakou was a branch chief within the CIA's Counterterrorism Center.

While he won't discuss the branch name, he says it fell under the broader Osama bin Laden unit and the Arar file was being handled by another branch within the centre.

He says an officer, one level above branch chief, was determined to make the arrest.

"I remember hearing some of the conversations — that, 'This is the wrong guy, this is a mistake.' And then one officer in particular (was) saying, 'No, this is not the wrong guy. We're going to take him.'

"She was certain that we had the right guy. That Maher Arar was an al-Qaida whatever-he-was — a facilitator, or whatever — and we were moving forward with it."

He wouldn't identify the officer. Kiriakou referred only vaguely to her general status within the agency. He also made a fleeting reference to a Hollywood hit: "As you may have seen in the movie Zero Dark Thirty, there were certain people inside the CIA who insisted on pushing forward."

He refused to say whether she was the officer who inspired that movie's main character — who was named in some media reports, and was linked in the Senate's torture study to the wrongful rendition of another innocent man, Khaled el-Masri.

The CIA declined to comment for this story. So did Arar, although his U.S. lawyer says it's about time these details emerged.

"Nothing has ever come out here about the CIA involvement," said Maria LaHood. "He's never received an apology from the United States ... His name continues to be smeared. As far as we know, he's still on a watch list."

Another advocate for Arar said the same is true for Canada.

Canadians who passed on information to the CIA continued law-enforcement careers and got promotions, said Kerry Pither, who wrote a book about the rendition of Arar and three other Canadians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maher Arar listens to a question at a news conference in Ottawa on Dec. 12, 2006. Arar, a Syrian-born Canadian, was detained in New York in September 2002 and shipped overseas — winding up in a dungeon-like Damascus prison cell. TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **It's not too late for accountability here. It would be nice, at least, to do some naming and shaming.**
> Maria LaHood, Maher Arar's U.S. lawyer

CIA

Jailed for leaks

Kiriakou just spent two years in prison for leaking agent details to the media — though he insists the government punished him for blowing the whistle on torture.

MISSING, MURDERED WOMEN

Volunteers dredging Manitoba river again

A group of volunteers plan to dredge the Red River again this year, hoping to find anything that will bring closure to the families of missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Bernadette Smith, whose sister Claudette Osborne went missing seven years ago, spearheaded the search last year after the body of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine was found in the river wrapped in a bag.

Volunteers went out on boats with hooks that combed the bottom of the river that flows through Winnipeg, hoping to dig up clues about women who have vanished.

This year, Smith said the operation is more sophisticated. The dragging bars are better made and Smith has bought a boat out of her own pocket.

But the intent is the same — to get answers for the loved ones of those who have gone missing or been murdered. Last year, Smith said seven bodies were pulled from the water.

Relatives of these missing women often feel helpless, Smith said. Getting out on the river gives many a sense of purpose and community, she said. It shows that the lives of the estimated 1,200 missing and murdered aboriginal women have meaning.

"It's very empowering to be doing this kind of work," she said.

For Kyle Kematch, like so many of the searchers, the work is personal. His sister, Amber Guiboche, went missing without a trace in 2010. Kematch quit his job last year to devote all his time to dragging the river.

Every time his hooks hit a snag, Kematch's heart leaps into his throat.

"I pray that I don't find her in there," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GERMANWINGS CRASH

Profile of co-pilot gets more troubling

The profile that has emerged of Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz has become more troubling by the day.

In the hours after Flight 9525 crashed in the French Alps two weeks ago, Lubitz was regarded as one of 150 victims in an unexplained disaster. Two days later he was the prime suspect of an unfathomable act.

By now, French and German prosecutors have little doubt that the 27-year-old intentionally slammed the Airbus A320 into a mountain, killing everyone on board, and there is growing evidence that his actions weren't just a split-second decision but the result of days of planning.

The revelations have raised questions about who knew what, when, and whether Lubitz could have been stopped.

Investigators have pieced together a picture of Lubitz by analyzing the voice and flight data recorders found at the crash site, searching his homes in Duesseldorf and Montabaur, and by interviewing friends, relatives, colleagues and doctors.

Medical records show that before he received his pilot's licence, Lubitz suffered from depression, with doctors recording "suicidal tendencies." It forced him to take a break of several months from his pilot training.

In the months before the crash, Lubitz sought help from several doctors, including specialists at Duesseldorf's University Hospital. In the week leading up to the crash, Lubitz spent time online researching suicide methods and cockpit door security. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andreas Lubitz. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANCHESTER, U.K.

Two teenagers face terrorism charges

British police say a teenage boy and girl have been arrested on suspicion of preparing terrorist acts.

Greater Manchester Police said Sunday a 14-year-old boy and 16-year-old girl have been arrested following two separate police raids that took place Thursday and Friday. Police say they had warrants for both searches.

The two teens have not been named and both have been freed on bail until a May 28 court hearing.

The number of terrorism-related arrests in Britain has surged in recent months as an increasing number of Britons try to travel to Syria to link up with ISIS extremists there.

Separately, police are questioning six people arrested earlier Friday in the port city of Dover, which has extensive ferry service linking England to France.

Five men and one woman in their 20s were arrested in a departure lounge there Friday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

California governor defends drought order

Gov. Jerry Brown on Sunday defended his order requiring Californians statewide to cut back on their water use in a historic mandate that spares those who consume the most — farmers. As California endures a fourth year of drought, Brown's order this week requires towns and cities statewide to draw down water use by 25 per cent compared with 2013 levels. While past reductions were voluntary, Brown said he is using his emergency powers to make the cuts mandatory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yemeni Sunni Islamist party says over 120 members abducted by Shiite rebels

Yemeni Shiite rebels, making an aggressive bid for power in the impoverished Gulf state, arrested more than a hundred members from a rival Islamist Sunni political party, including two leaders, the party said in a statement Sunday. The Islah party, the Muslim Brotherhood's branch in Yemen and a traditional power player in Yemen, had declared its support for the Saudi-led coalition bombing campaign against the rebels and their allies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christian women and children are scanned with a metal detector and have their bags searched to prevent against possible attacks as they enter the compound of the Our Lady of Consolation Church, which was attacked with grenades by militants almost three years ago, in Garissa, Kenya Sunday. BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunman in Kenyan attack was official's son

EXTREMISM

Chief reported him missing, feared he'd gone to Somalia

One of the gunmen who slaughtered 148 people at a college in Kenya was identified Sunday as the law-school-educated son of a Kenyan government official, underscoring the inroads Islamic extremists have made in recruiting young people to carry out attacks against their own country.

Abdirahim Mohammed Abdullahi, who was killed by security forces Thursday along with the three other militants who stormed Garissa University College, was the son of a government chief in Mandera County, which borders Somalia, Interior Ministry spokesman Mwenda Njoka told The Associated Press.

The chief had reported his son missing last year and feared he had gone to Somalia, Njoka said.

Somalia's al-Shabab militant group claimed responsibility for the bloodbath, saying it was retribution for Kenya's sending of troops to Somalia to fight the extremists.

The attackers separated Christian students from Muslim ones and massacred the Christians.

The news that one of the gunmen was Kenyan highlights the challenges faced by the government in preventing terrorist attacks. The danger comes not only from neighbouring Somalia but also from within Kenya.

Kenyans make up the largest number of foreign fighters in al-Shabab, according to experts. Hundreds of Kenyan youths have trained with al-Shabab and then returned to Kenya, posing a major security threat, according to former police chief Mathew Iteere.

Kenya's government has said another source of instability is the country's refugee camps, with more than 423,000 Somali refugees.

Abdullahi graduated from the University of Nairobi with a law degree in 2013 and was seen as a "brilliant upcoming lawyer," according to Njoka.

Njoka said it is important for parents to inform authorities if their children disappear or seem to be embracing extremism.

Meanwhile, questions have been raised about the security response to the Garissa attack.

Police waited seven hours before sending a special tactical unit into the college to fight the gunmen, Kenya's Daily Nation newspaper reported Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. SURVEY

More whites approve use of police force

White people in the United States approve of police officers hitting people in far greater numbers than black people and Hispanics do, a striking difference at a time when the U.S. is struggling to deal with police use of deadly force against minorities, according to a major American trend survey.

Seven of 10 whites polled, or 70 per cent, said they can imagine a situation in which they would approve of a police officer striking an adult male citizen, according to the 2014 General Social Survey, a long-running measurement of trends in American opinions. When asked the same question, just 42 per cent of blacks and 38 per cent of Hispanics said they could.

These results come as Americans grapple with trust between law enforcement and minority communities after a series of incidents, including the deaths of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City. Thousands of people protested in the streets last year after the deaths of 18-year-old Michael Brown and 43-year-old Eric Garner, who gasped "I can't breathe" as police arrested him for allegedly selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

The survey shows the gap between whites, blacks and Hispanics long predates those deaths.

The poll results don't surprise experts on American attitudes toward police, who say experiences and history with law enforcement shape opinions about the use of violence by officers.

"Whites are significantly more likely to give police officers the benefit of the doubt, either because they have never had an altercation with a police officer or because they tend to see the police as allies in the fight against crime," said Ronald Weitzer, a George Washington University sociology professor who has studied race and policing in the U.S. and internationally.

However, blacks and Hispanics "are more cautious on this issue because of their personal experiences and/or the historical treatment their groups have experienced at the hands of the police, which is only recapitulated in recent disputed killings," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Uber hopes to make peace

TRANSPORTATION

To grow here, ride-sharing firm must mend fences

The strong-arm tactics that some Canadian cities have been using against virtual ride-hailing company Uber have prompted the organization to try to mend fences with local officials even as it maintains hope for further expansion.

Municipal governments across the country have launched everything from political salvos to court injunctions against the San Francisco-based tech giant in a bid to keep its fleet of both licensed and unlicensed vehicles off city streets.

While Toronto Mayor John Tory has publicly defended Uber, saying companies like it are here to stay, a recent blitz by a lone city cop saw 11 charges laid against UberX drivers in a single weekend.

Uber's opponents have occasionally succeeded. While the company maintains a presence in Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax, it was forced to shut up shop after brief sojourns in Vancouver and Calgary.

Uber says there's an effort afoot to cool tensions with the cities it serves before it pursues new locations.

"Uber wants to be everywhere and we are constantly evaluating new opportunities," said Jeff Weshler, Uber Canada's General Manager for Regional Expansion.

Uber has met with varying levels of resistance in nearly every Canadian city it has operated in even as it has won plaudits for its innovative business model.

Municipal officials from Vancouver to Halifax have accused the company of operating illegally at best and endangering the lives of passengers at worst. They assert that Uber provides the services of a taxi company without complying with the licenses and regulations that govern that industry.

A man leaves Uber headquarters in San Francisco in a December 2014 photo. The tactics some Canadian cities have been using against Uber have prompted the company to try to be more collaborative with local officials. ERIC RISBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Critics have been particularly vocal about the company's UberX service, which allows unlicensed drivers to offer rides in their own vehicles. Such trips are not eligible under the insurance plans that cover licensed taxi rides, and opponents describe this as only one among many safety risks associated with the practice.

Uber, in turn, argues that developing a mobile app that lets customers hail nearby cars makes it a technology company rather than a transportation firm.

> **Ultimately we're all committed to the same vision of a safe and reliable way for people to get around.**
>
> Jeff Weshler, Uber Canada's General Manager for Regional Expansion

This argument has fallen on deaf ears in several European cities, which have banned Uber's services outright, even as it's been embraced by several American jurisdictions.

The reaction has been similarly mixed in Canada.

Chris MacDonald, professor of Business Ethics at Ryerson University, said there's no doubt the model has caught on in the 300 cities worldwide where Uber currently operates.

Uber has set itself apart from its many competitors as a leader in this field, he said, adding the company is clearly filling a genuine need in the market.

Its approach has also proven highly lucrative for the moment. Wall Street investors recently valued the company at a staggering $40 billion US.

But antagonizing governments by flouting regulations does not mean the company is blazing a trail to future prosperity, he said.

"They're going to need, in the long run, to keep a pretty broad range of stakeholders happy," he said. "They've had such a wide range of stumbles.... Money will only get you so far through so many of those. Eventually they've got to kind of make peace.''

Weshler says the bans and criticisms that have dogged the company are par for the course for an organization that's trying to revamp a long-established system, adding Uber has no plans to shy away from its opponents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

DNA doggy-do tests nail owners who don't scoop

Frustrated with dog owners who refuse to clean up after their pets, an increasing number of apartments in Seattle are opting to use DNA testing to identify the culprits. The Seattle Times reports that a company called BioPet Vet Lab from Knoxville, Tenn., is providing its PooPrints testing kits to 26 apartment and condo complexes and homeowners associations in the region. Since February 2014, tenants have been paying a "one-time fee of $29.95 US for DNA testing." Tenants allow their pet's DNA to be collected through swabs so it can be matched to offending poop when the poop is left behind. BioPet says in the past five years, the DNA test has been used in nearly 1,000 places around the U.S., and it's especially popular in large cities.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marijuana trimmers eye careers in pot industry

Washington's marijuana business has created a legal occupation that offers career opportunities for bud trimmers. Bud trimmers make $12 to $15 US an hour trimming leaves and other things from marijuana buds. Most work on up to a pound and a half of marijuana per day. Experienced workers can move up to positions as gardeners or concentrate makers, and earn $50,000 to $90,000 a year. Before the legalization of marijuana, bud trimmers migrated from job to job and were paid in cash and risked arrest. Now, they typically make an hourly wage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, April 6, 2015

MYMETRO

Ana-Maria Aguilar-de-Li's Metro

Ana-Maria Aguilar-de-Li says she likes reading Metro because she needs to learn English and she likes the recipes. "They're delicious!" she says.

Follow us at metronewsca and post pictures of yourself reading your Metro with the hashtag #MyMetro and we'll repost.

We'll also feature a reader pic in this spot every Monday.

Happy mandatory retail holiday (exceptions apply)

COLLINS' CAPITAL

Steve Collins

I hope that as a city we have begun to recover from Friday's shocking outburst of lawlessness at Lansdowne. As you are perhaps aware, Whole Foods made a buccaneering decision to sell forbidden fruit on Good Friday, in blatant violation of Ontario's Retail Business Holidays Act.

Ottawa police, responding to a complaint, arrived on the scene at the busy Glebe outlet and confirmed numerous brazen acts of retail in progress. The scofflaw shoppers escaped with their prohibited produce, but the store could be fined a maximum of $50,000, or every ill-gotten penny it made that day, whichever amount is greater.

Prosecutors, we're told, will make a decision this week, after they return from their Easter holidays. (Justice never sleeps, but it may nap from time to time, to maintain optimum vigilance.)

Nepean-Carleton MPP Lisa MacLeod denounced the store's decision to flout the law, without explicitly defending the merits of the law itself. She argued we can't pick and choose which laws we obey, and that holiday retail closures, until there are changes, are the law.

It almost sounded like a tacit acknowledgement that, apart from being the current law of the land, this legislation doesn't have all that much going for it.

We've been here before in Ontario, after all, in the days when the Lord's Day Act prohibited Sunday shopping and brick-and-mortar stores couldn't yet imagine competition from today's 24/7 online retailers.

The name of that legislation helped flag it as a hangover from a time in which Ontario could be considered a predominantly Christian jurisdiction. Easter, while not the only holiday covered by the current act, is a hybrid — a civic holiday with a religious background that an ever-increasing proportion of our citizens don't share.

Local retailers also point out that the current law produces unintended consequences, such as sales that would otherwise be made here simply migrating across the bridge to the more liberalized holiday shopping regime of Gatineau.

Still, a holiday's a holiday, and we're told to think of retail workers, the ones who are lucky enough to get these designated days off, rather than those who may not, like the employees of convenience stores, gas stations, small pharmacies and others on a long list of exempted businesses.

A Whole Foods spokesperson said the chain originally thought it was covered by one of these exemptions because Lansdowne Park was a designated tourist area — not so, it found out. The store went ahead with Friday's opening but changed its mind about doubling down on its criminality/sacrilege with Easter Sunday shopping.

But even as the rest of our shops toed the legal line, it's not as if the holiday weekend was uniformly tranquil and restful.

Saturday was one of those days when many shoppers, faced with a crunch between a commerce-free Friday and Sunday, felt the need to mob the stores and stock up. Near closing time at my local grocery store, they were still lined up at multiple checkouts.

Friday's goofy Whole Foods spectacle suggests there's a smarter way to observe holidays than to simply restrict consumer choice and threaten business with fines for offering it.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Preschool Mastermind: You can't buy your way into a creative community

There is something both appealing and repulsive about a new preschool in New York.

It's so New Age, so millennial: the (possibly world's first) preschool for adults.

Preschool Mastermind wants to bring the magic back into your thirty-something life. You can pay on a sliding scale of $333, $444, $555, all the way up to $999, for five classes of fingerpainting, make-believe, Play-Doh, naptime and snack time.

And maybe you want to. Other people are. One video shows a class singing songs and dressing up.

You know, like we used to. Before we grew up.

Maybe this preschool is the "worst, saddest thing," and "makes you lose faith in humanity," as one friend told me.

My gut reaction was to call the preschool an extreme example of my generation's petulant refusal to grow the hell up. Why else would people pay hundreds of dollars to go to Miss Joni's Brooklyn house and pretend like the last 25 years never happened?

But I actually agree with at least one thing that some of those adult preschoolers have told media: The world can seem a rather oppressively serious place.

Creativity is often valued for its products, not for itself. I can't be the only one who feels like productivity is the sole sign of a good day. And that's sad.

At Miss Joni's, you "inject play, wonder, self-belief, and community" into your "grown-up" life, the website says.

"People come here and get in touch with their inner child. It's magical," Miss Joni has told media.

I get the need for more magic. It reminds me of the old margarine commercial with the Young at Heart song, which even as a child, I understood to be true. No one is too old to fingerpaint.

But paying someone with half a degree in early childhood education to take you back to preschool is surely one of the most self-indulgent, narcissistic ways to seek magic in the world.

You can't buy your way into a creative community, as this class pretends. You have to seek it with other people, in your actual life.

And if cultivating that childlike view is what you're after, the answer isn't to try and regress to your own childhood. The answer is to go spend some time with actual children. Our cities are full of kids' charities that could no doubt use the help.

Isolating yourself in that farce of preschool is actually an affront to the magic that waits for you every morning. Go out in the world. Because you can't go back in time.

metro
Your essential daily news

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Your essential daily news

America's problem with fat-shaming page 15

Monday, April 6, 2015

The best dollar-store gadgets

Just because you're tight on cash doesn't mean you can't afford some great gadgets. Your local dollar store has a tech section, believe it or not, and you'll be pleasantly surprised at what you can buy with loose change. The following are a few bargains found at Dollarama, Dollar Tree, Family Dollar and 99¢ Depot.

Marc Saltzman FOR METRO CANADA

BRIGHT IDEA

Folding Booklight

Tablets benefit from a backlit screen, but this isn't the case with most ebook readers and, of course, paper books. Don't bother your partner in bed with a night-table lamp when you can pick up the Circuit Electronics LED Folding Booklight for just $1. Clamp the reading light onto your ebook reader or book, press the open button along the side and a retractable arm, with bright LED light, slowly extends to its full height. Three small watch batteries are required, but included.

PURSE PALS

Rechargeable Audio Speaker

It's rewarding enough to find a $2 speaker for your favourite music player, smartphone or tablet — but the aptly named Hype Audio Rechargeable Compact Speaker cleverly doubles as a small mirror to apply makeup. While not wireless, it includes a custom two-foot cable that plugs into the music source (via a 3.5-millimetre mini jack), plus it has an integrated USB connector to power up the rechargeable speaker.

SOUND ADVICE

Stereo Earbuds

Commuters don't need to spend upwards of $300 on a pair of Bose- or Beats-branded earbuds. Instead, the Electra Stereo Earbuds with Microphone, for a mere $2.50, sound better than you might think — plus they block out ambient noise. Along with a microphone on the cable for taking calls — and a three-button remote for volume, pausing and skipping between tracks — the cord of these stereo earbuds has a "flat-wire" style, which looks nicer and doesn't knot up as easily.

REMOTE POSSIBILITIES

4-in-1 Remote

Look down at your coffee table. If you have more remotes than family members, you have a problem. Clear the clutter on the cheap with the $2 RCA 4-in-1 Remote, which lets you control up to four home theatre components — such as a television, cable box, DVD player, and more. The wireless remote is easy to program and offers backlit buttons, volume and media control (e.g. Play, Pause, Forward and Back).

POWER PLAY

USB Car Socket Charger

Keep multiple devices juiced up in your vehicle with the Tech-1 Universal USB Car Socket Charger ($3). As the name suggests, this power socket plugs into your car's 12-volt port (a.k.a. cigarette lighter) and not only charges up three devices at the same time — two 12V gadgets and one USB-based one — but it's also on a two-foot extension cord.

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HEALTH NEWS

Sweet-smelling sweat? U.K. scientists develop new perfume

British scientists said Thursday they had developed the first perfume that smells better the more you sweat, and also reduces body odour. Researchers at Queen's University Belfast said in a statement that the new perfume "releases more of its aroma when it comes into contact with moisture." The fragrance uses an ionic liquid with no smell as a delivery system. The new perfume could also take away bad odours. "The thiol compounds that are responsible for the malodour of sweat are attracted to the ionic liquid, attaching themselves to it and losing their potency," the scientists said. AFP

Questions persist about sexual side effects of baldness drug

A review of 34 clinical trials on a popular drug to treat hair loss in men found that none of the studies adequately reported on sexual side effects, researchers said Wednesday. The findings raise serious questions about whether the drug — known as finasteride and marketed as Propecia and Proscar, among other names — is safe, said the report by scientists at Northwestern University, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Dermatology. That has left key questions unanswered, such as the actual risk of developing sexual side effects, how long they may last, how severe they may be, and whether sexual function may return to normal if the drug is stopped. AFP

When saving, stick to your guns

MONEY MATTERS

Make a plan and let everyone know that you won't waver

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
gailvazoxlade.com

One of the things I'm most proud of when it comes to my TV shows is the fact that folks are more comfortable talking about their money. While I've always been open about money — my money and money in general — other people have been really resistant to sharing their financial stories. That's changed. The brave families I've worked with on TV have helped people see that talking about money is one of the first steps to making change stick.

But we're still not open books. Perhaps it's because we think our money, and the stuff we buy with it, says something about who we are. We're happy to play the guessing game that comes with wearing brand names and living large so people are convinced we're doing great. If we all wore flashing signs on our backs declaring our debt, would we still be so smug showing off our new and shiny?

Determined to change how you deal with your money? Step 1 is to lay a plan for what you'll do differently. Step 2 is way harder: Time to 'fess up to friends and family about what's been going wrong and how you're going to fix it.

Most of us hate the idea of having to give up anything: We love our dinners out, our drive-thru on the way to work, our impulse purchases that come with that immediate gratification buzz.

Hey, if what you're doing isn't getting you to where you want to be, you're going to have to reconcile yourself to doing things differently.

Maybe you can't go out to eat a couple of times a week if you're determined to save a down payment.

Maybe not knowing what you're spending on entertainment isn't getting you any closer to being ready for a new baby.

Maybe those new clothes, new movies, new tchotchkes for the house aren't actually making you happy.

Deciding what you're going to focus on, taking charge of your money and doing the detail will produce a happier outcome than just doing what you've always done.

You're not the only one that's going to have to get used to your new priorities. If you've always been the go-to girl for partying or if you've been the guy who buys a round for the table, that's going to change. And you need to tell people what's changing if you want to have any hope of sticking with a new program.

I'm all for getting together with friends for a lovely meal in a wonderful restaurant. Or maybe you just want to treat the kids to fish and chips, pizza or chicken nuggets and fries on a Friday night. Hey, it's your money and you get to do whatever you want with it. But if your new plan severely restricts your eating out, you're going to have to tell your peeps.

If you have friends who are unwilling to accept your new priorities, you'll have to manage those friendships so that you're not tempted to swap your good intentions for good feelings. You won't be very successful at breaking a shopping habit if you're always hanging out with the chick or dude who loves to shop. Find something else to do together: See a movie, take up an activity you can share, start a project you're both interested in. Sometimes you may have to duck and hide for a little while until you get your new patterns established. It's like trying to quit smoking; you may have to skirt your smoking friends for a while until you're out of the danger zone.

Don't hide your decision to become smart with your money. Celebrate the new you. Who knows whom else you might influence positively with your new attitude!

Next time, you might want to think twice before you pick up the cheque for the entire table. BOTH PHOTOS ISTOCK

FRIENDS

As for signalling to friends that things have changed, honesty is the best policy.

"I'm sorry, but I'm working on making myself financially stable and (whatever it is) just isn't going to work for me right now." Then offer an alternative. "Maybe instead we can take the kids for a picnic in the park." Or: "I'd love to go for that weekend away, but I'm building up my emergency fund right now, so I've got to stay focused. Why don't you come over for dinner when you get back and you can fill me in on all the news?" Or: "I know we haven't been out for a long time, but I'm determined next year is the year I spend a month in Italy and that means I'm saving every extra cent I have right now. I could come over to your place and we could ..." You get the point.

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KELLY CLARKSON

Anchor in deep ish over deep-dish dis

In one of the most elegant cities on Earth, France's Parliament moved last week to make it a crime to use anorexic models or encourage anorexia.

In the U.S., however, some still think it's OK to fat-shame women on national television. Yet another TV "personality" has decided to make an unsolicited comment on Kelly Clarkson's weight.

We realize a lot of stuff that comes out of Fox News is cynically designed to get reactions, like this one, but still. Chris Wallace decided to weigh in on the virtues and drawbacks of the singer — for some reason — offering, "Kelly Clarkson's got a lovely voice. She could stay off the deep-dish pizza for a while." Which is downright un-American, if you ask me.

Heck, Wallace even has his own turning against him, as Fox colleague Greta Van Susteren was so incensed she had to blog about it: "This 'guy snickering' about her weight is obnoxious," she wrote. "He should apologize."

In the meantime, I suddenly really, really want some deep-dish pizza.

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

TEEN ACTRESS

Bella Thorne says her sexiness is 'your problem'

Teen actress Bella Thorne isn't too worried about people finding her attractive even if she isn't actually a legal adult yet.

"People tell me I'm sexy and I'm like, 'Dawg, I'm just being me. If you find me sexy, that's your problem because you're looking at me like that,'" the 17-year-old tells Fox News. "I'm not trying to portray anything else than just me."

So ... you're the creep, OK?

NED EHRBAR/METRO

"I'm not trying to portray anything else than just me.
Bella Thorne

Unclassy spoiler could ruin Lifetime fun for all

DRAMA!

TV movie with Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig now in limbo

The fate of what could be the best Lifetime TV movie ever, featuring Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig, is unclear after the project's planned secrecy was spoiled.

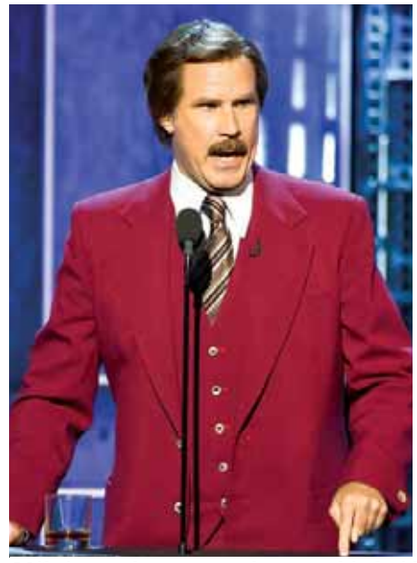
The former Saturday Night Live stars made the ominously titled A Deadly Adoption, playing a couple who befriend a pregnant woman in hopes of adopting her child. Lifetime's movies, frequently melodramas about life and love that appeal to the network's primarily female audience, are a genre onto themselves and often ripe for parody.

"We are disappointed that our secret project with Will and Kristen was leaked and the network is determining the fate of the movie," said Michael Feeney, spokesman for Lifetime's corporate parent, A&E Networks, on Friday.

A spokesman for the actors' talent agency had no immediate comment on Lifetime's plans.

After word of the project got out, Ferrell issued a statement that he and Wiig had decided it was "in the best interest for everyone to forego the project entirely." Lifetime had said the movie was due to air this summer.

Ferrell's statement may be an empty threat: Stars generally don't have the ability to kill an filmed project, except in the unusual circumstance where they fully financed the production, said Jonathan Handel, an entertainment attorney for the Hollywood firm TroyGould. Even then, they could face a breach of contract lawsuit if the film had already been leased to a television network. In most cases, TV movies are financed jointly by a production company and the network itself, Handel said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A Lifetime spokesman says the network is deciding what to do with its Will Ferrell and Kristen Wiig movie, A Deadly Adoption, after the project was leaked. GETTY IMAGES

DATING

Rumour: Strahan sweet on Cookie

If you had any doubts that Empire star Taraji P. Henson had truly arrived, this should quash them. Cookie Lyon herself is now the subject of tabloid dating rumours — specifically about the amorous advances she's been fielding from Michael Strahan.

It all started when Henson stopped by Live with Kelly and Michael for a chat, according to Star magazine.

"Michael flirted openly with Taraji on camera, but he wasn't kidding. Off camera, he kept asking her, 'When can I take you out?'" a source says.

"Taraji initially brushed off his advances, but Mike told her that he was serious. The two ended up having an intimate dinner that night at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel ... and they have more dates on the books." Well, all right, then.

NED EHRBAR/METRO

BOX OFFICE

Furious 7 races past expectations with $143.6M opening weekend

The high-octane Furious 7 peeled out of the gates in its opening weekend, picking up a stunning US$143.6 million from 4,004 locations to easily top the domestic box office, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

The expectation-shattering sum is a studio and franchise best for the home-grown car-obsessed series, which has continued to grow over the past few films.

Furious 7 also unseats previous April record-holder Captain America: The Winter Soldier, which opened to US$95 million on the same weekend last year.

While the Fast and Furious films have grown in popularity over the past three films, the mega-opening for Furious 7 was also at least partially tied to audience interest in star Paul Walker, who died in a car crash in November 2013 before the film was completed.

Production on Furious 7 was halted while the filmmakers and Universal decided whether or not to proceed with the film. The team ultimately decided to delay the release from its originally scheduled July 2014 date.

"It probably created some curiosity, but, at the same time, (the film) fits in so well with the overall continuing saga of the Fast and Furious franchise," Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution, said of Walker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9th

Furious 7 is the ninth-biggest U.S. theatrical opening of all time.

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THE WINDS OF WINTER

George RR Martin releases chapter from new book

Yes, George RR Martin really is working on that next book.

The Game of Thrones author released a chapter last week from his long-awaited sixth volume of the Song of Fire and Ice fantasy series, The Winds of Winter.

The chapter appears on Martin's website and is told from the perspective of Sansa Stark, living under the name Alayne Stone.

She is played on the HBO adaptation by Sophie Turner (pictured).

Martin has already cut back on personal appearances and decided against writing for the sixth season so he can concentrate on The Winds of Winter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011

The previous Fire and Ice book, A Dance With Dragons, came out in 2011.

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Seeing Game Of Thrones hunk Michiel Huisman stripping off was a highlight of last season. CONTRIBUTED

A scene best enjoyed in private

URBAN ETIQUETTE

Repeat after me: Too sexy for his shirt? Too sexy for public transit

Ellen Vanstone

Dear Ellen,
This morning's subway commute was standing-room only. A guy near me was sitting next to a child and watching something very fleshy on his iPad. I am sure it wasn't porn, maybe Game of Thrones or Looking. I know people like to binge watch, but is the subway the place to catch up on shows like these?
Amber in Toronto

Dear Amber,

Judging by your first name — a major porn-star moniker since the '80s and still the fourth most popular according to the Interactive Adult Film Database — I'm going to assume you know whereof you speak when it comes to what constitutes onscreen erotica. In fact, if I may be so presumptuous, the idea of an old porn star watching new porn stars over the shoulder of porn-consuming commuters is downright charming — the kind of flagrantly tawdry spectacle that makes your city truly world-class, if not classy.

But is such inadvertently shared content suitable for children? No, Amber, it is unequivocally not. If we want our kids to learn the ins and outs of sexual practices in all their anatomical, permissive permutations, surely the little wretches can get it at school — in Ontario, for example, Premier Kathleen Wynne's new sex education curriculum will provide no end of fodder for their developing imaginations. They hardly need more of this content on the way to or from their tax-funded sex lessons in the classroom.

What's more, there's the question of overload. With sex scenes, public nudity and crass innuendo shoved down our throats at every turn, it's increasingly hard to make the real thing alluringly mysterious — not to mention dirty, which is an essential component of a satisfying sex life according to experts (well, according to Woody Allen who stipulated that sex is only dirty "if you're doing it right," though perhaps he's not the ideal role model to quote in this context).

The point is, nobody, of any age, needs to be subjected to "fleshy fare" on our transit systems.

Finally, I hope we don't need to add that indulging on public transit in the activity that usually accompanies porn-watching would breach every rule of etiquette known to personkind.

Need advice? Email Ellen at life@metronews.ca

PREMIERE

• Game of Thrones returns to HBO Canada on Sunday, April 12, at 9 p.m. ET.

metro SPORTS
Cristiano Ronaldo scored five goals in Real Madrid's 9-1 rout of Granada
Monday, April 6, 2015

Critical point left behind

NHL

After OT loss to Leafs, Sens no longer control own fate

No fans of easy endings, the Ottawa Senators' playoff hopes are still alive. Now they need help.

The Senators lost 3-2 to the Toronto Maple Leafs in a shootout Sunday night at Air Canada Centre, picking up a valuable point in the process. But by losing they failed to take control of their own playoff future.

With three games left, Ottawa (40-26-13) has 93 points and trails the Detroit Red Wings, Boston Bruins and Pittsburgh Penguins by two. The Senators host the Penguins Tuesday night in Ottawa.

Peter Holland scored the shootout winner for the Leafs (30-43-7), who got 43 saves in regulation and overtime from goaltender Jonathan Bernier. Joffrey Lupul and James van Riemsdyk had regulation goals for Toronto.

Senators captain Erik Karlsson and rookie Mark Stone scored to ensure at least a point. Goaltender Andrew Hammond made 36 saves, including 21 in a tough first period.

The game was the fourth straight to go to overtime for the Senators and fifth in the past six matchups. A second point would have been especially important because it would have put them in the driver's seat to make the playoffs.

The Senators' Kyle Turris collides with the Leafs' Jonathan Bernier on Sunday night in Toronto. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN TORONTO **Sunday**

LEAFS	SENATORS
3	2

With some motivation to spoil the Senators' playoff hopes, the Leafs came out flying. Lupul opened the scoring at 3:10 of the first period when he corralled the puck in front of Hammond and slid a shot by him.

The Senators had some chances, including a two-on-one rush, but Toronto controlled the play and finished with a season-high in shots for a period with 22 to Ottawa's 12.

It was all Ottawa for the majority of the second. Nine seconds into a power play, Karlsson crashed the net from the point to put home a rebound at 7:15 for his 21st goal of the season.

The Leafs didn't have a shot on goal for the first nine minutes of the second, but van Riemsdyk still broke a tie at 12:41. With the teams skating four-on-four, the Senators' defence left van Riemsdyk open, and Peter Holland found him for the go-ahead goal.

Stone tied it at two 1:09 into the third on the power play, firing a one-timer off a pass from Kyle Turris past Bernier. It was the rookie's 22nd goal of the season.

A penalty called when Bobby Ryan touched the puck while sitting on the boards gave Toronto a late power play. But the Senators survived to force overtime. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE SCORES

Canadiens 4, Panthers 1
Carey Price stopped 24 shots to pick up his league-leading 42nd win and the Montreal Canadiens beat the Panthers leaving Florida stranded on 87 points with two games left.

Flyers 4, Penguins 1
Steve Mason made 46 saves, and the Flyers scored on 3 of 4 power-play opportunities to defeat Pittsburgh.

The Penguins (42-26-11, 95 points) have dropped 10 of their last 13 games and suddenly face the prospect of playing for a post-season spot Tuesday in Ottawa.

Capitals 2, Red Wings 1
Mike Green had a goal and an assist, and the Washington Capitals beat Detroit, putting the Red Wings in an anxious spot.

Detroit is trying to reach the playoffs for the 24th straight season, remained tied with Boston for third place in the Atlantic Division. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carey Price got win No. 42 on Sunday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spotlight will shine on Martin all season long

Dave Langford
For Metro

Before he has played a single game that counts for the Toronto Blue Jays, Russell Martin could already be the best catcher in the team's 38-year history. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russell Martin. Period. Paragraph. End of story.

But wait: the journey has not even begun.

The story of the Toronto Blue Jays this season is now and will be all year long Russell Martin.

The Toronto-born, Montreal-raised catcher signed a five-year, $82-million US contract in the off-season and the 2015 fortunes of the Blue Jays are attached squarely to his 32-year-old hips.

Without playing a single game that counts for the playoff-starved Blue Jays, he is already the best catcher in the team's 38-year history.

That first game takes place today in New York, of all places, as the Blue Jays open against the Yankees on the second day of the 2015 Major League Baseball season.

Martin, who played the past two seasons in Pittsburgh and was once a Yankee and a Dodger, believes the Blue Jays will end their 22-year-playoff drought in 2015.

"I think the city of Toronto deserves it. I think Canada deserves it," Martin stated proudly in a weekend TV interview in Montreal, where the Blue Jays played their final two pre-season games.

Yes, the bilingual, charming Martin is exactly what the organization needs, a player who can carry the team on his back.

He can hit, he can field, he can catch, he can throw, he can lead. He has been in the playoffs seven times in the past nine seasons.

His smile is infectious, his words meaningful.

"It's starting to feel like a family here," Martin said only hours after watching his family idol, his father Russell Sr., play the U.S. and Canadian national anthems on his saxophone at Olympic Stadium.

Martin admitted in the same interview that one of the major reasons he signed with Toronto was the fact his father could watch him play 81 regular-season games in the Rogers Centre.

"Hopefully, he'll get to see some games in October as well," Martin said, making a not-so-subtle reference to the World Series.

And that, Toronto, is where and when the story will end.

TRIVIA

5 things you need to know about Russell Martin:

1. His full name is Russell Nathan Jeanson Coltrane Martin Jr. Jeanson is his mother's maiden name; Coltrane is John Coltrane, the U.S. jazz saxophonist.

2. He changed the name printed on his jersey for the 2009 season to J. Martin, in honour of his mother.

3. His father played the sax in the Montreal subway stations to raise money for his son's baseball "education."

4. Martin's contract is the second-biggest contract ever for the Blue Jays, trailing only the seven-year, $126-million deal given to outfielder Vernon Wells following the 2006 season.

5. With the two weekend games in Montreal, he took the subway and then walked to the park, rather than riding the team bus.

Russell Martin Sr.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

CURLING

Canada salvages bronze

Canada lead Nolan Thiessen remembers how it felt to make the long journey home from last year's world men's curling championship after missing the podium.

He didn't want a repeat performance this year. Skip Pat Simmons and the rest of the Canadian team made sure they got some hardware this time around.

Canada bounced back from an ugly semifinal loss to beat Finland's Aku Kauste 8-4 in the bronze-medal game Sunday morning in Halifax.

Nolan Thiessen
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We wanted to be playing (for gold) this afternoon," Thiessen said. "So it still stings from last night. But you don't want to go home empty-handed. Last year, we stood out there at the closing ceremonies while everybody else walked up on the podium. That's the biggest kick in the head there is.

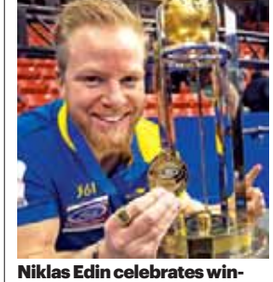
"We found a way and we medalled and we can be proud of that."

The Canadians posted a 10-1 round-robin record before falling to 2014 champion Thomas Ulsrud of Norway in the Page playoff 1-2 game on Friday. They followed that defeat with their worst showing of the tournament in a loss to Sweden's Niklas Edin on Saturday night.

Edin went on to defeat Ulsrud 9-5 in the gold-medal game Sunday afternoon for his second world title in three years. The Swedish rink had a mediocre start to the tournament but finished strong.

"We focused on our game strategy, opening up the ice, and we picked it up so that we could make the playoffs," Edin said. "And we felt really strong going into the playoffs and obviously we didn't make many mistakes there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Niklas Edin celebrates winning the world championship.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

George's return sparks Pacers to win

Paul George's season debut provided a needed boost Sunday as the Pacers put themselves back in the playoff contention with a 112-89 rout over Miami.

George finished with 13 points in his first action since breaking his right leg Aug. 1.

Luis Scola scored a season-high 23 points to lead Indiana (34-43). The Pacers moved into a tie with Miami (34-43) for the No. 9 spot in the East. Both teams trail Boston by one game for the conference's eighth and final playoff spot.

Miami was led by Dwyane Wade with 27 points but lost its fourth in a row.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

15

George scored 13 points on 5-for-12 shooting in nearly 15 minutes of action.

IN BRIEF

Harden ignites Rockets in win over Thunder

James Harden scored 41 points, and the Houston Rockets overcame Russell Westbrook's triple-double to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 115-112 on Sunday.

Harden and Westbrook, the league's top two scorers, both entered the game averaging 27.5 points. Harden made 12 of 22 shots and was 6-for-9 in three-pointers. Westbrook finished with 40 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCAA BASKETBALL

Duke, Wisconsin final teams standing

Duke languished in the shadows of Kentucky all season, the big blue juggernaut that nobody seemed to be talking about. It was a rarity for a program with such a championship pedigree, not to mention a record-setting coach and superstar freshmen.

They can thank Wisconsin for finally returning to the limelight.

The fun-loving Badgers ended the Wildcats' pursuit of perfection in the national semifinals, and set up an intriguing showdown in Monday night's title game: Duke trying to give Mike Krzyzewski his fifth national championship, Wisconsin trying to capture its first in 74 years.

The Blue Devils (34-4) have run roughshod through the NCAA Tournament, allowing just 55 points per game.

Meanwhile, Wisconsin (36-3) becomes just the fourth team to have faced the highest possible seed in every game on the way to the championship since the field expanded to 64 in 1985.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Gnocchi with Parsley Feta Pesto

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
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Ready in
Prep time: 5
Bake time: 5

Gnocchi is a mouth-watering pasta made from potatoes not flour. It's a great side dish or entrée.

Directions

1. Bring pot of water to boil. Add gnocchi and boil just until gnocchi is tender, about 5 minutes.

2. Meanwhile puree parsley, feta, garlic, pepper, oil and water in a small food processor until smooth. Add more water if too thick.

3. Pour over top gnocchi and garnish with toasted almonds.

Ingredients

- 350 gm potato gnocchi – (about 1 ¾ cup uncooked)
- ¾ cup flat leaf parsley leaves
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 small garlic clove
- Dash of coarse black pepper
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp water
- ¼ cup sliced toasted almonds

Nutrition per serving

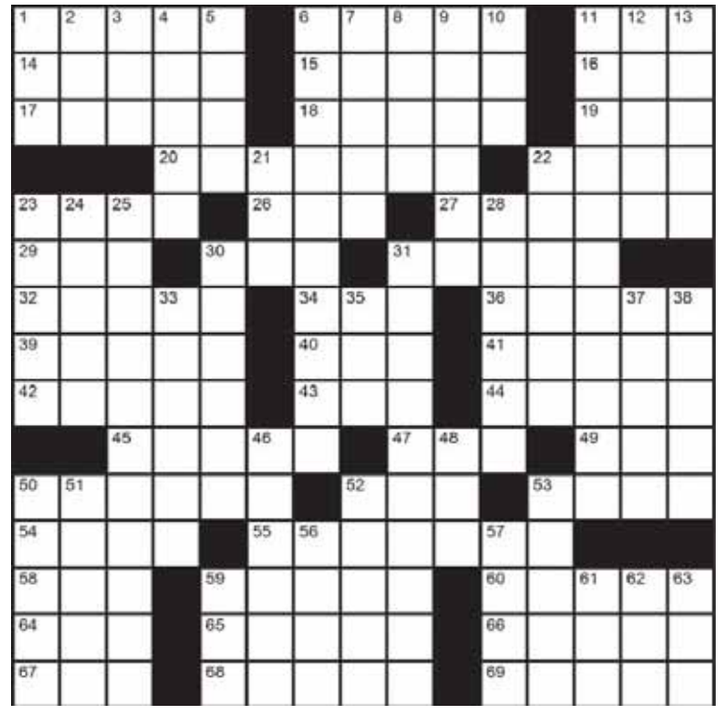
- Calories 287
- Carbohydrates 31g
- Fibre 1.6g
- Protein 7.6g
- Fat 15.5g
- Saturated Fat 2.7g
- Cholesterol 3.3mg
- Sodium 554mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE metronews.ca



ACROSS

1. Springtime's chocolate star
6. Fisherman's count
11. US health-related agcy.
14. Prefix relating to 'Bones'
15. Additional
16. Cleaning cloth
17. "My guess would be...": 2 wds.
18. Sea swallows
19. Ms. Gabor
20. "Jesus Christ Superstar" (1973) character, __ Pilate
22. Modify
23. Thompson Twins tune
26. Long time
27. Flowery
29. Wood sorrel
30. Triumphed
31. Easter basket's fake fluff
32. Seed's outer layer of protection
34. Spiritual 'way'
36. Badlands formation
39. Ballet outfits
40. Year: Spanish
41. Grizzlies
42. Classical Music: Canadian __ Company
43. Polit. designation
44. Manner of speaking
45. Aussie actress Ms. Wilson
47. "__ chance!"
49. Pathway [abbr.]
50. Reveal, as a portrait painting
52. __ Lanka
53. Discounted
54. Wreck
55. Spiny ant-eating mammal that looks like a hedgehog
58. Beatles: "__ Follow the Sun"
59. Egg-shaped
60. Make amends
64. Beatles: "__ You Need Is Love"
65. Ms. Messing
66. Blood of ancient Greek gods
67. Gardening tool
68. Laud to the heavens
69. US state, __ Island

DOWN

1. Avril Lavigne's "Sk8er __"
2. Amer. currency
3. Days opp.
4. Types of tides
5. Retro toy
6. "Here Comes Peter __" (TV special of 1971)
7. Didn't go to the restaurant afterall: 2 wds.
8. Drive-__ (Fast food service)
9. Use the 'bleep' button as a TV show employee
10. Clock's li'l time segments
11. Judy Garland's co-star in "Easter Parade" (1948): 2 wds.
12. Lifeboat lowering crane
13. Quartz variety
21. Paleo opposite
22. Happened as a result
23. Game of chance for a chance to win millions
24. Get frosty: 2 wds.
25. Community in Manitoba that #6-Down would like!
28. __ Lake (Saskatchewan village northwest of Saskatoon)
30. Sushi condiment
31. Pre-Egg Hunt day holiday: 2 wds.
33. Stew dish
35. Ms. Jillian
37. Horse speeds
38. Namesakes of Carlisle Cullen's wife in 'Twilight' movies
46. Onze: English
48. Assistance
50. British band, __ Heep
51. Void, in Venice
52. Avoid duties
53. Gate fastener
56. Corny places
57. Depilatory brand
59. Lyric poem
61. "Well, now!"
62. Assenting sign
63. Earlier than now, in verse

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your confidence is at an all-time high. Your capabilities may be immense but make sure you focus on aims that are worth investing your time and energy in.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The less others know about your aims and ambitions this week the better, especially if you are working towards a goal that is likely to make others jealous if you succeed – and you will.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Take the initiative in group and social activities over the next 24 hours. Not only will you will be immensely popular but you will also meet people who transform your outlook on life.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If you want to impress employers and other important people then now is the time. Don't hide yourself away: show them — and the world in general — what you are capable of.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
With the Sun and Uranus very much on your side there is nothing you cannot do and nothing you cannot possess. But try not to be too domineering or you could make an enemy of someone that would make a more sensible friend.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Look in the mirror and be honest about what you see. If you can do that today then you will put yourself at an advantage when dealing with people who are not so honest about their own faults and failings.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't do what other people expect you to do — do what appeals to you, for whatever reason. If you let partners and colleagues dictate terms they will, and you can be sure they won't be as favourable.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The planets warn you are working too hard and need to change your attitude to your chores, duties and responsibilities. The fact is you will be no good to anyone if you work yourself into the ground. Lighten up.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Start something new and don't worry too much about planning ahead. Today's cosmic influences urge you to think and act as if you cannot possibly fail — and you won't.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will have to deal with some annoying people today but getting angry won't make things any easier. Yes, of course, it's a pain when others act slowly or stupidly but not everyone can be as switched on as you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are in one of your generous moods at the moment, but make sure it is only those who deserve your largesse who get it. Hangers-on will happily enjoy themselves at your expense.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You don't have to ask permission to make the changes you need but you do have to accept that not everyone will be happy with them.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	3		5		1		2	
		4				9		
8		5		4		6		7
6		1		3		4		2
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